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Shuster Rejects Turning Threats of Violence in to Political Theater Selective Outrage will not Move America Forward

Washington, D.C.— Congressman Shuster released the following statement on reports of threats of violence in the wake of the health care vote:

“Unfortunately, one of the things I and my fellow elected officials have to endure are threats of violence for our positions on important issues. Even I have received threats over my opposition to the President’s health care reform bill.

Violence is not acceptable in American politics. We have endured as a nation because of our strong spirit of civic community and our faith in the electoral process as the ultimate expression of voter intent. I call on those making threats today to cease immediately.

I am extremely concerned that some Democrats in Congress are using recent threats against House Members as a media tool for political gain in an election year. The fact remains that a majority of Americans still oppose the Democrats’ health care bill. I have met with many of my own constituents who have legitimate concerns over the legislation. They and thousands of others have expressed their opinion in a peaceful law-abiding manner.

By pushing the media to dominate the news cycle with stories of threats and violence the Democrats hope to distort reality so they can turn the public’s attention away from their government takeover of health care. They want to hide from their legislation that will result in more expensive premiums, higher taxes for the middle class, a lower quality of care and soaring deficits.

I do find it ironic that Speaker Pelosi and many of her colleagues in the Majority have selective outrage over recent events. Where was their indignation during the Bush Administration when leftists made calling for the assassination of a sitting President a popular sport in Washington? Where was the outrage in the media when protesters held up posters of President Bush dressed as Hitler, or threatened Members of Congress with physical violence for their vote to approve the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan?”

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